

## Article - Natural Resources

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§5-1502.

The purposes of the Heritage Conservation Fund are for the State to acquire conservation easements or a fee simple or other interests in:

- (1) Forestlands;
- (2) Unique ecological areas of the State;
- (3) Any area characterized by significant natural scenic beauty;
- (4) Tidal or nontidal wetlands;
- (5) Lands in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, as defined under § 8-1807 of this article;
- (6) Any land designated as a unique ecological area under the Natural Heritage Program in the Department;
- (7) Any wilderness area that remains relatively undisturbed by human encroachment;
- (8) Lands supporting rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals;
- (9) Lands that support diverse ecological communities of plants or animals;
- (10) Any land whose conversion to development would significantly affect water quality or unique natural habitat; and
- (11) Natural areas that have been designated by the State or submitted by a county for designation as areas of critical State concern under § 5-611 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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